alleging attempts by certain Israeli individuals to settle members of a tribe from Mizoram in Gaza. A group of about 40 persons claiming to practise the jewish faith from Mizoram and Manipur reached Israel with tourist visas in August 1993. These persons may be in search of employment. The Israeli Government have denied any official involvement in this matter.

More submarines by Pak

3890. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Economic Times dated 3rd August, 1993 captioned "Pak eyeing more submarines" to augment its naval strength; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government of India thereon particularly the impact thereof on our counting which has maritime boundaries with Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Government have seen media reports to the effect that Pakistan is exploring the possibility of acquiring submarines from various countries to augment its naval strength.

(b) Our concerns about any arms sales to Pakistan disproportionate to Pakistan's legitimate needs has been conveyed to all concerned. Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

PM to visit North Korea

3891. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has any plan to visit North Korea which has long standing friendly relations with our country; and

(b) whether Prime Minister's visit to China and USA, may not be rounded up by the Prime Minister's visit to North Korea ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister has accepted, in principle, an invitation from the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to visit the DPRK. Mutually convenient dates for the visit will be worked out through diplomatic channels.

Hardship faced by Indian citizens in U.K.

3892. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a lot of hardship is caused to Indian Citizens who visit U.K. due to increase in Visa fees;

(b) whether Government propose to review the fees in the interest of Visiting Indians; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) It is the sovereign right of every country to fix its own visa fee structure and to revise it from time to time in the absence of a bilateral visa fee agreement. It would therefore be inappropriate for the Government of India to take up this matter with the British authorities.

Attack on Janmashtami procession in Bangladesh

3893. SHRI PUSUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN :
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Janmashtami procession brought out by the minority community this year in Dhaka (Bangladesh) was attacked;

(b) if so, whether the Indian High Commission in Dhaka has lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what according to the information with the Government of India, are the details of the casualties suffered by the minority community on account of the attack on the procession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALAMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has not lodged a protest on this incident with the Government of Bangladesh as the protection and welfare of the minority community in Bangladesh is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Government.